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Should Limit Some Fish Consumption

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — The Department of Natural Resources said Monday people should limit their consumption of large trout and salmon from Lake Michigan and other fish from the upper Mississippi River and the Fox River near Portage.

The agency said fish in these waters contain more than the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's acceptable level of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

The federal government has set the maximum acceptable level for market fish at 5 parts per million of PCBs.

The DNR said it was recommended by the state Health Division that, since fish in these waters contain more than 5 ppm, "sports fishermen be advised to refrain from eating more than one meal per week of such fish and that pregnant women and children be cautioned to limit their intake to one average size serving of such fish per week."

Fish from these waters were found to exceed the maximum level:

—Lake Michigan and Green Bay trout and salmon, including lake trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon and brown trout, over 24 inches in length.

—Many fish in the Mississippi River between Prescott and Lower Lake Pepin.

—Many fish in the Fox River from Portage north to the Columbia County line.

The state Agriculture Department has said it will take action to seize any fish offered for commercial sale containing more than 5 ppm PCBs. Lake trout over 24 inches in length caught by commercial fishermen in Lake Michigan will no longer be sold for human consumption.

The DNR said it will conduct a surveillance program to identify and abate sources of the PCB discharges, and will ask the natural resources board to authorize hearings on sale, use and distribution of PCBs.

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